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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

EUROPEAN SERVICE

At last we are receiving more definite information from the units of nurses assigned to duty in Europe. A long letter came recently from Helen Scott Hay in which she gives an account of their trip from London to Petrograd. I quote the following:

We left Falmouth Wednesday morning and arrived in London that evening about 6 o'clock.

The nurses were allowed to go to the theatre, but I remained at home as I expected a call from Mrs. Fenwick. She was most helpful and comforting and I had a fine visit with her. She brought a lovely bouquet of roses and saw us off at King's Cross next morning.

The various war notices—"Your King and Country Need You," etc., are quite thrilling, and one is much impressed with the reserved attitude of the English with it all.

Trip to Dundee most interesting with fine glimpses now and then of York, Durham and Edinburgh Castle.

At Edinburgh Miss Breay of the *British Journal of Nursing* met us, telegraphed to by Mrs. Fenwick, and with her arms full of Scotch sweets for us.

Over the wonderful Firth of Forth Bridge we sped in the early darkness and were soon in Dundee and escorted to the Police Station. There our passports were examined and credentials obtained.

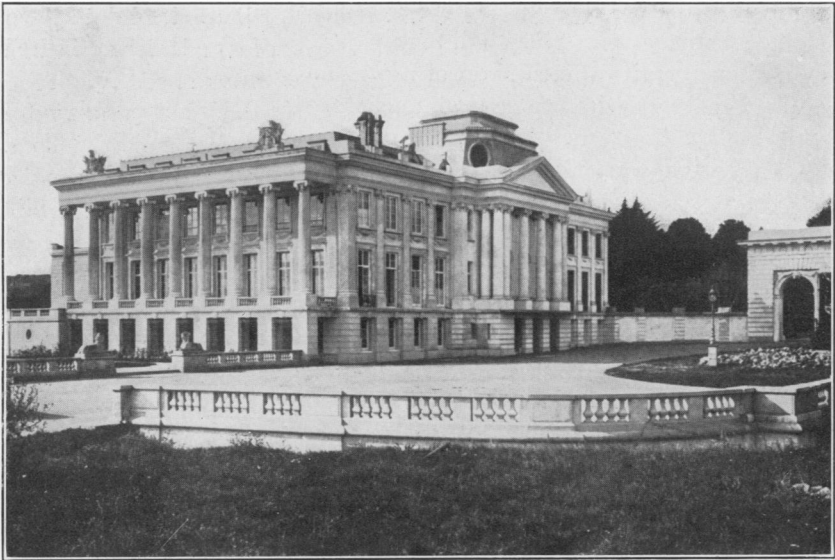
We arrived at Gottenberg, Sweden, at noon on Sunday and were soon off for Stockholm, landing there at 10 p.m. The scenery all along was most beautiful, farm and forest land with the vivid hues of our own autumn season. We were welcomed by one of the Illinois Training School Swedish graduates and entertained by the local Red Cross. Dr. McGill and myself were invited to tea at the Russian Ambassador's, where we met our own Mr. Morris.

The trip across the Baltic Sea was certainly the worst I have ever endured, but it was only eighteen hours long. Later we received this message from Russia, "Welcome! We are waiting two weeks already for you."

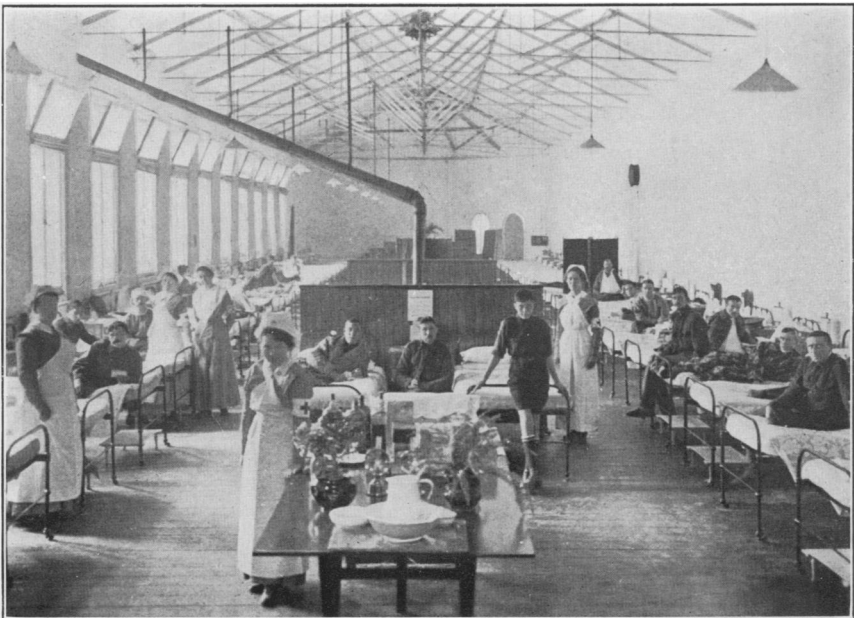
Then with all custom regulations waived for us, we were taken in groups of from two to five to the various homes where we were to be cared for.

Petrograd, today at 1 p.m. We were taken from the train through the room called "The Emperor's Room" at the station and a grand speech of welcome was made by the Russian officials. They expressed their appreciation of our country's help twenty-five years ago in time of their great famine, and of our present help.

In order that there might be no misunderstanding on the part of the Russians in regard to our personnel, the medical officers were en-



WAR RELIEF HOSPITAL, OLDWAY, PAIGNTON, DEVONSHIRE



UNIT F. (BOSTON NURSES) AT WORK

tirely outfitted in Russian uniforms and the medical directors with much ceremony were given military titles. Before leaving for Kiev our units were given until noon of a certain day in which to send out any letters they desired to have go uncensored. After that time everything must come through subject to the approval of the Government and they were cautioned, before leaving Petrograd, that it might even be necessary for them to withhold a statement concerning their whereabouts. This sounds all very business-like and rather assures us that the Russians have taken our units really as their very own.

Both units assigned to England are on duty at the American Women's War Hospital, Oldway, Paignton, Devonshire. Lady Paget, the Duchess of Marlborough, and many other American women who have married in England are interested in this hospital and were most anxious to have it under the direction of our Red Cross units.

Both French units are at Pau, France, which is unfortunately some distance from the scene of action, so that their service has not as yet been as active as we could desire.

In a clipping recently sent me from the Paris *Herald* it is stated that the American Hospital at Pau is now working busily and the French medical authorities who have visited it are loud in their praise of its admirable management and arrangements.

No very definite information has as yet been received from the German units, but one is assigned to duty at Kosel and the other at Gleiwitz and from the meagre reports received seem to be fully occupied.

The Austrian units are at Vienna and Budapest and seem to be well located for active service.

Only meagre information has been received from Servia, but they have been fully occupied from the first and we have every reason to believe that the second unit sent over was much needed. A cable recently came to this office through the Department of State saying that the nurses were all well.

HOW NURSES MAY HELP

Groups of nurses in various sections of the country are assisting in the preparation of surgical supplies which seem to be very much needed. A friend who has recently returned from Austria states that not more than one patient in twenty brought in from the front has had a first dressing, due to the lack of such supplies. I feel sure that should nurses wish to assist in any form of relief work, their time could not be more usefully employed than in the preparation of the simple surgical dressings which have been adopted by the Red Cross.

The District of Columbia Red Cross Chapter in coöperation with the Graduate Nurses' Association of the District has recently opened a headquarters for surgical supplies at 710 Eleventh Street, N. W., in the shopping district, where information concerning these supplies and work of every kind for European Relief can be secured. Members of the Graduate Nurses' Association have agreed to be present at times during the day, not only to assist in making the dressings but to give instruction to others interested. A large work table with bandage rollers, gauze and other material has been provided. Patterns and samples of materials for garments are shown as well as knitted articles and samples of wool. Various placards give information in regard to the cost of supplies and it is hoped that similar bureaus of information may be opened in other sections of the country where Red Cross nurses may coöperate.

The following placard is used not only at headquarters, but in shopping windows about town:

HELP THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN EUROPE BY GIVING MONEY, ABSORBENT COTTON, GAUZE AND BANDAGES. DONATIONS SENT TO COUNTRY DESIGNATED; OTHERWISE, WHERE MOST NEEDED. COME AND HEAR ABOUT RED CROSS WORK IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

What our Red Cross can do for a wounded soldier in Europe with your contribution.

- 1 cent will buy iodine to disinfect a wound
- 1 cent will pay for enough gauze for one dressing
- 5 cents will buy a bandage
- 8 cents will pay for a temporary splint
- 10 cents will provide enough chloroform for an operation
- 25 cents may save a limb or a life
- \$19.00 will pay for 100 pounds of absorbent cotton
- \$21.00 will pay for 1,000 yards of gauze
- \$35.00 will pay for 1,000 sterilized bandages
- \$40.00 will purchase 100 pounds of chloroform.

Extract from letter of Dr. Ryand, Director of the hospital unit sent to Servia, dated October 20:

We arrived at this place on October 16 and were immediately put in charge of the big hospital here. Since starting we have had absolutely no time for anything but work and sleep. Many of the wounded had not been dressed for several days, and as we have about 150 and it is necessary to dress them every day, it is eleven o'clock before we get through, and some nights later. The nurses work from eight in the morning until seven thirty, with time off for meals. The cases turned over to us are in many instances of long standing and require constant attention. New cases are arriving steadily and we will be overrun in a very short time. Surgeons are very scarce here, and as we have about 50,000 wounded scattered throughout the country, you can readily see what the conditions are.